



DR. HAMILTON S. SMITH.

NEGRO MASONRY.

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The Atlantic Monthly stated a great truth when it said: "The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line." In this country, especially, it enters all questions—social, political and spiritual, and it is, therefore, no wonder that it has felt the pulse of Masonry, that knows no



DR. JOHN P. TURNER.

creed or race, and stands above all human institutions in advocating the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. This question was too much for that eminent authority in this time-honored institution, Albert Pike, who eased his conscience by uttering these memorable words: "Prince Hall Lodge was as regular a lodge as any lodge created by competent authority, and had a perfect right to establish other lodges, and make itself a mother. That's the way the Berlin Lodges, Three Globes and Royal York became Grand Lodges. I am not inclined to meddle in this matter. I took my obligations to white men, not to Negroes. When I have to accept Negroes as brothers or leave Masonry, I shall leave it."

"Better let the thing drift." After the Deluge." There is little doubt, however, that these prejudicial sentiments entertained by certain members of the craft would be dispelled if they were privileged to see the great tenets of Masonry exemplified by the colored lodges in the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. It is generally conceded that this jurisdiction has the finest workmen of the craft in the country, but it excelled itself recently

when, at a special communication of Social Lodge, No. 1, Brother John P. Turner, Senior Grand Warden of this jurisdiction and Past Master of Eureka Lodge, was invited to act as Master in exemplifying the Third Degree before Brother E. W. Lampton, Grand Master of the State of Mississippi. A profound impression was made by him because of the eloquent manner in which he portrayed the work, assisted by the stereopticon views of the emblems. Indeed, some of the oldest members of the craft shed tears as the glorious truths were brought to light. The delivery of the symbolism of the Third Degree by Past Master Fred Henry, of Prince Hall Lodge, and charge to the brethren by Past Senior Grand Warden Brother John T. Layton, were also very impressive. At the conclusion of the work Brother Tompkins presented to the lodge Grand



MR. R. W. TOMPKINS

Master Lampton, who in a few well chosen remarks complimented the officers of the lodge and eloquently portrayed the sublime truths of Masonry and its salutary effects toward the betterment of the condition of our people. The banquet afterwards was superb, and the members of the fraternity went away more deeply impressed than ever with the excellent truths inculcated. Social Lodge, of which Brother R. W. Tompkins is W. M., is the oldest in the jurisdiction, having had its warrant more than 76 years. Dr. John P. Turner is a Georgian and the Empire State of the South is proud to have a son so brainy, who ranks among the most excellent craftsmen here. Among the distinguished visiting

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brethren were: The Grand Master of the State of Mississippi, E. W. Lampton; Past Grand Master H. S. Smith, Ill. Sov. Grand Commander Thornton A. Jackson, Past Master Judson W. Lyons, Past Department Grand Master W. H. J. Malvin, Past Senior Grand Warden, T. M. Dent of Georgia, and John T. Layton of District of Columbia, Past Masters Charles Stewart of Chicago and Fred Henry, Charles and John W. Freeman and George Webster, of District of Columbia; Ill. Grand Recorder James O. Bampfield.

Dr. Credit in Arkansas.

Rev. W. A. Credit, pastor of the Cherry Street Baptist church, Philadelphia, preached the baccalaureate sermon last Sunday to the Arkansas Baptist College at Little Rock. The college is one of the best in the South, having over four hundred students. He lectured on May 12th at the First Baptist church of Little Rock, and again spoke at Hot Springs. Dr. Credit is succeeding splendidly in his church work at home. He received thirty-five new members Sunday a week ago. Three services were held during the day and a large number could not get entrance into the edifice.

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Lost Friend.

I would like to know the whereabouts of
Mr. Thomas J. Stewart an old soldier of the
14th R. I. Heavy Artillery of Providence.
When last heard from he was working in the
Treasury Department at Washington, D. C.
Any information concerning him will be
gratefully received by J. E. Johnson, 78 Sum-
mer street, Providence, R. I.